

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 EUR-12 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-01 OMB-01 EB-07

TRSE-00 COME-00 CIEP-02 AF-06 SCCT-01 AID-05 /113 W

----- 074185

R 241346Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6956

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 0695

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, JO, US, XF

SUBJ: JERUSALEM ARABIC PRESS ON END OF KISSINGER MISSION

REF: JERUSALE 580

1. SUMMARY. LEADING JERUSALEM ARABIC DAILY AL QUDS IN MARCH 24. EDITORIAL NEITHER SURPRISED NOR PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTED AT OUT-COME OF KISSINGER MISSION. PLACES MAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAILURE ON ISRAEL. ASSERTS ISRAEL WANTS ACCEPTANCE AS ME STATE BUT IS NOT PREPARED TO PAY PRICE OF WITHDRAWAL, EVEN TO PRE-JUNE 67 BORDERS. DISAPPOINTMENT EXPRESSED AT FAILURE OF US TO BRING PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. EGYPT, HAS MADE CLEAR ITS SUPPORT OF ARAB PRINCIPLES, EDITORIAL SAYS. LEFIST ARABIC DAILIES AL SHAAB AND AL FAJR ARE HEAVILY CRITICAL OF ISRAEL AND ATTRIBUTE FAILURE OF TALKS TO ISRAEL'S UNWILLINGNESS TO ACKNOWLEDGE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS END SUMMARY.

2. NOTING THAT IT HAS PROPHESED FATE OF KISSINGER MISSION IN UNCLASSIFIED

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MARCH 20 EDITORIAL (REFTEL), LEADING ARABIC DAILY AL QUDS SAYS IT

KNEW WHAT RESULT WOULD BE BECAUSE IT UNDERSTOOD ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN POSITIONS. ISRAEL DOES NOT WANT PEACE BUT A PEACE TREATY - ACCEPTANCE AS MID-EAST STATE WITH NORMAL TRADE AND OTHER RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS AND REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES WHERE THEY ARE NOW LOCATED. IT IS NOT PREPARED TO WITHDRAW EVEN TO PRE-JUNE 1967 BORDERS AND ITS BASIC POSITION WAS NOT CHANGED BY "RAMADAN WAR." ARAB COUNTRIES ARE READY FOR PEACE TALKS, PAPER AFFIRMS, BUT IT IS CLEAR ISRAEL IS NOT READY TO PAY PRICE FOR PEACE. EDITORIAL ASSERTS NO ARAB COULD POSSIBLY ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS THAN WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 BORDERS ON ANY SETTLEMENT THAT LEFT PALESTINIAN QUESTION STILL UNDER DISCUSSION.

3. US, EDITORIAL CONTINUES, DID NOT EXERT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL BECUASE IT WANTS A SETTLEMENT WITHOUT IMPOSING ANYTHING ON ISRAEL AGAINST ISRAEL'S WISHES. US APPARENTLY CONFINED ITSELF TO OBSCURE HINTS IN PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER. IT PLAYED TOO MUCH ROLE OF MERE POSTMAN. THIS WAS NOT ROLE ARABS FOR SHORT TIME THOUGHT AND HOPED US WOULD PLAY. FYXT STEP OPEN IS GENEVA, BUT AS NOTED EARLIER (REFTEL) THIS WILL NOT BE MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL. IMPOSED SOLUTION LAST RESORT BUT NOT FEASIBLE. EGYPT, EDITORIAL NOTES, HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO GREAT CRITICISM BUT IT NOW CLEAR EGYPT WILL NOT GIVE UP AGREED ARAB PRINCIPLES OR DEVIATE FROM BASIS ARAB POLICY.

4. EDITORIALS IN AL SHAAB (MARCH 24) AND AL FAJR (MARCH 23) EMPHASIZE PALESTINIAN, AND IN LATTER CASE PLO, RIGHTS AND ASSERT KISSINGER TALKS WERE BOUND TO FAIL SINCE ISRAEL REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE SUCH RIGHTS AND TALKS DID NOT DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. AL SHAAB CONCLUDES WITH CALL FOR ARAB UNITY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SOLUTION. NEITHER MENTION GENEVA CONFERENCE.

5. COMMENT HAVING NOT ANTICIPATED THAT KISSINGER VISIT WAS LIKELY TO BRING WEST BANK OR PALESTINIAN PROBLEM CLOSER TO SOLUTION, EAST JERUSALEM PRESS EXPRESSES MORE OF "WE TOLD YOU SO" ATTITUDE THAN ANY GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT AT FAILURE OF TALKS.
DAY

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